

RESPONSE TO EX PARTE QUALYE ACTION
U.S. Application No. 09/661,265

Q59604

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

**Please replace Figures 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16A, 16B, 17A, 17B, and 17C with the
attached, replacement Figures.**

Attachment: Seven (7) Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

General Remarks

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application.

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' claim of foreign priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. The Examiner has also reviewed and considered the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on January 4, 2001, May 29, 2001, May 11, 2004, and June 22, 2004. Applicants respectfully request that with the next Office communication, the Examiner return a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-Form 1449 filed with the October 1, 2004 IDS.

Claims 1-13

Claims 1-13 stand objected to. Applicants submit that the amendments made herein to Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, and 11 correct all informalities and place these claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments are not intended to narrow the scope of the original claims, but are rather for precision of language and to explicitly recite within the claim what was believed to have already been implicitly defined therein. Accordingly, these amendments do not foreclose application of reasonable equivalents.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to Claims 1-13 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Figures

The Figures stand objected to due to informalities.

RESPONSE TO EX PARTE QUALYE ACTION
U.S. Application No. 09/661,265

Q59604

Regarding the objection to Figures 14, 16A, 16B, 17A, 17B, and 17C, Applicants amend these figures to include a “Prior Art” legend.

Regarding the objection to Figures 7, 8, and 13, Applicants amend “Data Register” 65 of Figure 7 to --Data Store-- 63, as supported in the specification at least at page 14, lines 14-30.

Regarding the objection to Figure 8, Applicants amend elements “66” and “46” to --46A-- and 66A--, as supported in the specification at least at page 15, lines 22 and 27.

Regarding the objection to Figure 11, Applicants amend elements “67” and “68a” to --67b-- and --68b--, as supported in the specification at least at page 21, lines 3 and 6.

Regarding the objection to Figure 13, Applicants amend element “46” to --46B--, as supported in the specification at least at page 22, line 12.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants submit that the Figures are in proper form for allowance and respectfully request that the objections thereto be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Comments on Examiner’s Statement of Reasons for Allowance

In the Statement of Reasons for Allowance, the Examiner implies that the claims are allowable because they contain certain features specified by the Examiner. While the Examiner does indeed reference certain patentable features of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that these features should be considered exemplary and non-limiting. Indeed, each of the allowed claims is allowable, as a whole, based on the entirety of the features recited therein.

RESPONSE TO EX PARTE QUALYE ACTION
U.S. Application No. 09/661,265

Q59604

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Moskowitz
Registration No. 55,470

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 3, 2004